

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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SS-15 USIA-15 /090 W

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R 091650Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8382

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USUN NEW YORK 0544

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 4785

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN DELEGATION TO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REF: PANAMA 4285 (NOTAL)

1. BY DECREE NUMBER 150 OF JULY 8, GOP HAS ANNOUNCED FULL COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION TO ACCOMPANY CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS TO FIFTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO AUGUST 9-19. REMAINDER OF DELEGATION INCLUDES: VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC GERARDO GONZALEZ; FOREIGN MINISTER AQUILINO BOYD; EDUCATION MINISTER ARISTIDES ROYO; PERMREP TO UN JORGE ILLUECA; DRS. ERNESTO PEREZ BALLADARES AND CARLOS PEREZ HERRERA, MEMBERS OF NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION; JOURNALIST AND TELEVISION COMMENTATOR MARIO VELASQUEZ; DR. JORGE APARACIO, ADVISER TO FOREIGN MINISTRY; LICDA. NUBIA LESCANO, SECRETARY OF DELEGATION.

2. DECREE ALSO NAMES FIVE OTHER JOURNALISTS OR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO ACCOMPANY DELEGATION.

3. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR BOYD AND PERHAPS PEREZ

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BALLADARES, THIS DELEGATION INCLUDES MOST OF THOSE PANA-

MANIAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE GENERALLY IDENTIFIED WITH PANAMA'S STRATEGY OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE NON-ALIGNED AND ARE CONSIDERED AS WELL, BY MANY IN PANAMA, TO COME FROM THE POLITICAL LEFT. ALTHOUGH NO LEFTIST, BOYD'S COURTING OF THE NON-ALIGNED WHILE HE WAS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN IN NEW YORK IS WELL KNOWN. THIS COMPOSITION IS UNDERSTANDABLE--THESE ARE THE FACES FROM PANAMA THAT THE NON-ALIGNED ARE FAMILIAR WITH. IT IS ALSO A BIT UNFORTUNATE THAT THIS DELEGATION, UNLIKE THAT WHICH ACCOMPANIED TORRIJOS' JANUARY HEGIRA TO CUBA, IS COMPOSED ALMOST TOTALLY OF PERSONS IDEOLOGICALLY OR PRAGMATICALLY INCLINED TOWARD THE NON-ALIGNED, OMITTING OTHER VOICES WHICH COULD COUNSEL RESTRAINT WHILE THE GENERAL IS IN THE HEADY ATMOSPHERE OF OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT. THE EMBASSY WILL SHORTLY FORWARD ITS ASSESSMENT OF PANAMA'S PROBABLE OBJECTIVES AND CONDUCT WHILE IN COLOMBO, AND OF ITS PROBABLE POSITIONS ON ISSUES AT THE CONFERENCE OF INTEREST TO THE U.S. END COMMENT.

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